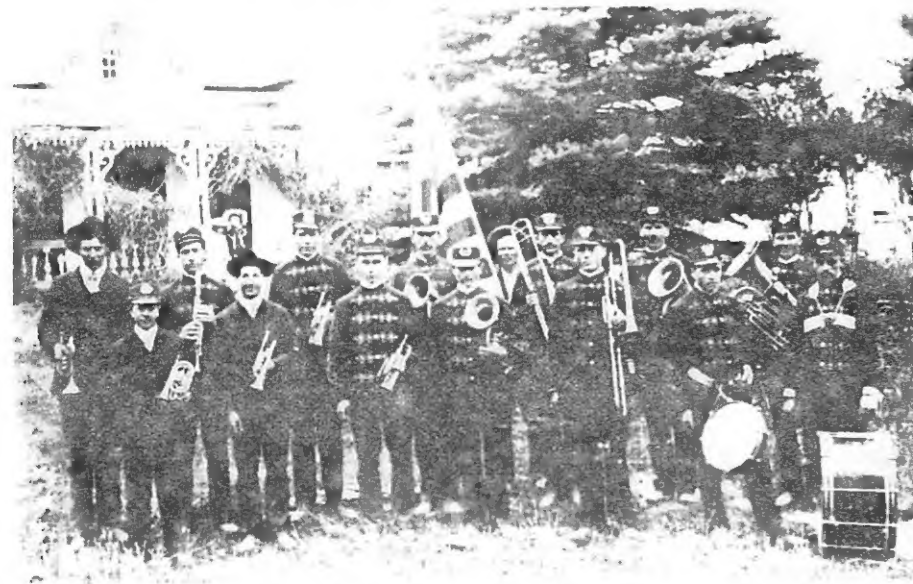




The Independent Band. Members are Fred Sonderegger, Edward Burgener, George Burgener, Rob Krebs, Arnold Burgener, John Burgener, John Sonderegger, Fred Haueter, Henry Zenger, Fred Kohler, Alma Burgener, Charles Bigler, and William Bigler.  
—Submitted by Alberta Provost

## MUSIC IN MIDWAY



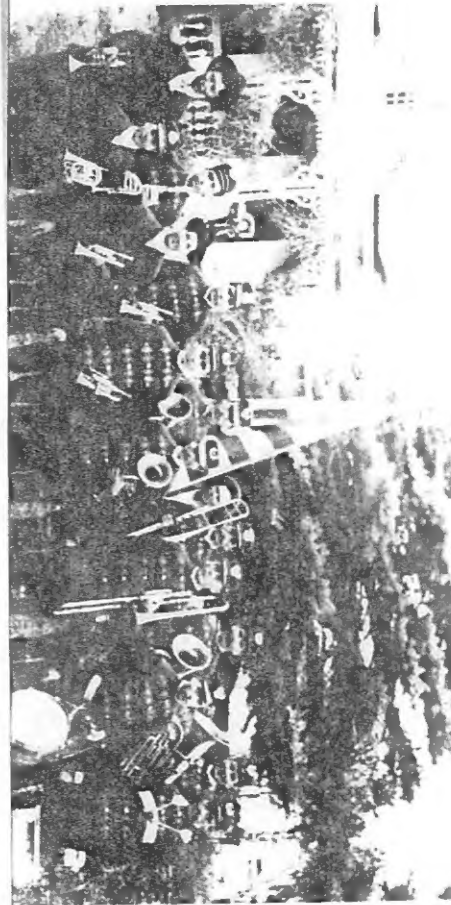
*Early Midway Brass Band*

Music has a very special place in the traditions and heart of Midway. Right from the beginning, from the first days the settlers arrived in this valley, music played an important part in their lives. After leaving their home in foreign lands and traveling, many pushing handcarts across the plains, there was not much left in the way of material things. Midway was a place, like many others in Mormon history, where saints from many lands came together in the new land with only the "Church" as a common bond. Everyone didn't even share the same language. But music crossed the language barrier.

The first brass band in Midway was organized by Andreas Burgener, a former bandmaster of the Swiss Military Band, and an L.D.S. Church convert from Switzerland. When he joined the church and decided to come to America he was advised by church missionaries to bring his musical instruments with him. His three cornets, one bugle, two alto horns and one baritone became the nucleus for the first Midway brass band. Today, as was in the days more than 100 years ago, there is still a community band. They perform in the town square in their very own fancy white gazebo.

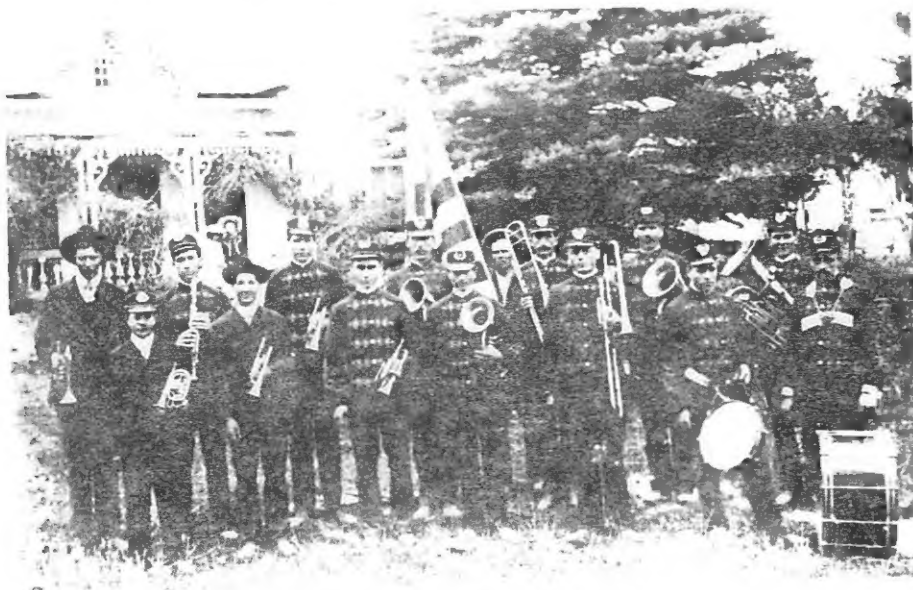
John Watkins, a prominent builder and leader during the first years in Midway was the official bugler for Fort Midway in 1866. He had been the bugler for the Martin Handcart Company of 600 pioneers (the ones who were stranded in the snow) and he also led the first brass band in Provo in 1856 before settling in Midway.

Choirs, concerts and community celebrations go back to the very first days in the valley. John Huber, who came to Midway in the early 1860's was the first musician and poet to be remembered. He loved this valley and wrote words and music about his feelings. These songs were then sung by the choir at community functions. Here is one of his original poems that has been set to music.



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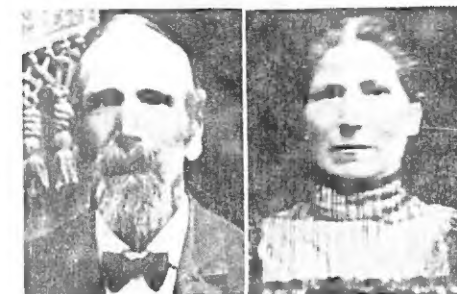
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## ANDREAS (ANDREW) BURGENER AND MAGDALENA MEIER BURGENER

Andreas Burgener, son of Jacob Burgener  
715

## Andreas Burgener Band

715



and Anna Teuscher. Born September 13, 1846, in Faulenell, Switzerland.

Married Magdalena Meier November 25, 1870, in Switzerland.

Died November 21, 1933, Midway.

Magdalena Meier, daughter of Christian Meier and Susanna Rothemund Meier. Born June 29, 1846, at Krutigen, Bern, Switzerland. Died March 25, 1925, Midway.

Andreas Burgener's home was the town of Faulensee, Switzerland. The Franco-Prussian war occurred in Europe in 1870-71. Andreas Burgener was in this war as a military band leader. Because of the many wars at this time, many of the German and Swiss people migrated to America. The Mormon missionaries were doing a great deal of work in various towns in Switzerland, and Andreas Burgener and his family were converted to The Church of Jesus Christ and migrated to Utah.

Andreas Burgener went to school from the age of six to 16. He learned to play the trumpet in school. When he was not in school he was with his father on a merchandise boat which the family owned, which hauled many commodities. They sailed across Lake of Thun. They also owned a stone quarry and hauled stone to the small towns along the lake shores. These men were large and strong and able to do heavy work. Andreas at the age of 25 years was 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighed 225 pounds. One season late in the fall, Andreas and his brother Frederick were hauling stone on Lake of Thun. Frederick slipped, lost his balance, fell in the icy water and was drowned. The family owned three cows and it was Andreas job to milk them and help with the work on the 30-acre farm. As they lived on the shores of the lake the boys did a lot of fishing. The family also had a fruit orchard and raised apples, cherries, grapes, etc.

When Andreas became of age he went to military school, majoring in music. He



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been a favorite musical instrument and many have pianists. Amy Hancock Clayburn was one Midway well and taught many others to play. Some of the pianists have included Lacy Abplanalp Lundquist, e Boss Tatton, Grace Reese, Ardell Buhler Clyde,urgi Fitzgerald and Barbara Bonner.

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group in Midway is the North Brothers Orchestra, popular at social gatherings. Pictured are, left to right, Garth North, LaVon North, Raymond North, Don Ryan and Howard North.

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Mr. Burgener moved to California in 1935, but continued his work with bands, choirs and orchestras. He taught music to his own family, many of whom followed in musical careers. Throughout his life he taught as his motto: "Teach a boy to play a horn and he will never blow a safe."

Another son of Andreas Burgener, Walter, also followed a musical career in Midway and later in Mexico and California, adding to the musical fame of the Burgener family.

A young, new musical group gaining prominence in Midway is the Three D's, composed of young guitarists and singers, Richard Jones, Dale Pugh and Dwayne Meeks. They often entertain at the Homestead and other places in the area. They, along with many other young people in Midway who are beginning to prove themselves musically, show promise that the musical future of Midway is bright, and that music will always be a basic part of the community life.

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One of the early pioneer painters was Mark Kirby whose paintings were placed in many of the homes. One of his most beautiful creations was the curtain that hung in the Old Midway Opera House and later the Amusement Hall.

Another accomplished artist was Jacob Arnold Bigler who shared his talent with his townsmen after studying art in Paris and other European areas.

A number of Midway artists have followed professional art careers. Included among these are Verna Berg, who is especially known for costuming, scenery displays and decorations; Paul Kuhn, art supervisor in the Jordan School District of Salt Lake County; Karl Probst, art teacher at Wasatch High School and Richard Van Wagoner who teaches art at Weber College in Ogden. Boyd Van Wagoner also follows an art career with special skill in sculpturing.

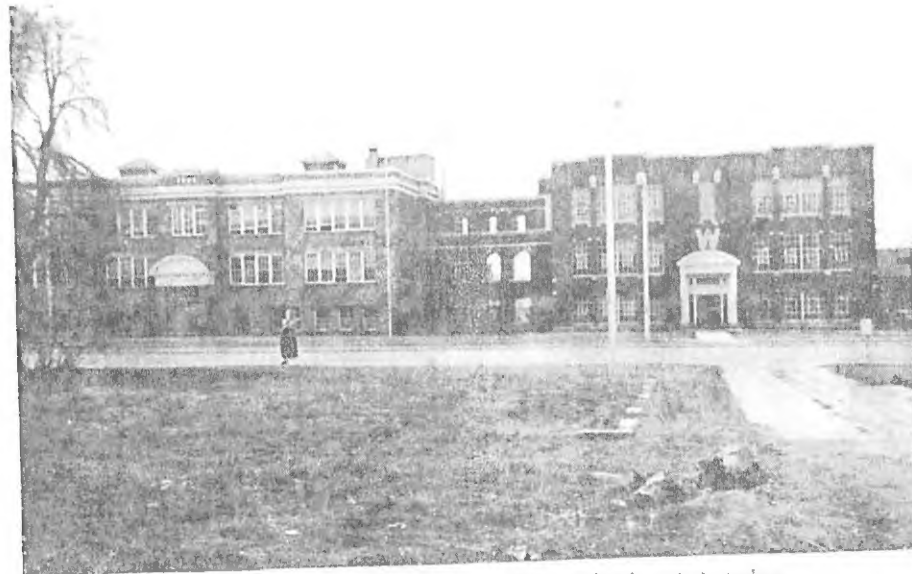
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dents laughed in years to come about the "floating tables." Two tables were the very limited resources of the physics and domestic arts departments, and each tried to claim them. If they were missing when one or the other classes convened, spirited rivalry ensued until possession was finally assured.

When the domestic arts work was begun during the school's second year, no sewing machines were available for instruction. The girls in the classes immediately began a canvas of business houses and townspeople and soon had collected enough funds to buy two treadle machines. The faculty headed the list of contributors with \$15.00, and J. W. Clyde, president of the board of education, followed with \$10. Others added donations of 50 cents or \$1.00 until the necessary funds were collected.

By the close of the 1910-11 school year, the first high school students were ready for graduation. These first graduates, who had completed three years' work, included Walter Burgener, Midway; Reno Crook, Clark Crook, Nora Clyde, Eva Buys, Storm McDonald, Forrest Luke, Josephine Murdock, Douglas Murdock, Naomi Duke, Abe Turner, Sylvan Rasband, Fred Clegg, Erma Jensen, Leon Peterson and Lula Clegg, all of Heber and Mable Ritchie, Charleston.

Those who entered the high school as freshmen in the 1908 beginning year were ready for graduation in the Spring of 1912, and comprised the first full four-year graduating class. Of the 75 who were eligible for enrollment during the first year, eleven graduated. They were Guy Duke, Merrill Moulton, Clayton Montgomery, Elijah Hicken, Cardwell Clegg.



A view from the east of Wasatch High School as it is today.

sisted of organ and violin, and then later guitars and harmonicas were included. The whole community joined in the dances, and mothers would take their babies and put them to sleep on benches that surrounded the dance floor. At midnight the groups would usually call an intermission and adjourn to someone's home for refreshments—oyster suppers seemed most popular—and then return to the dance hall to continue dancing until two or three o'clock in the morning.

Some of the first dances were held in the upstairs of a two-story rock home known as the old Smith home. A popular dancing place was the Heber Social Hall (Old Hall) and Buell's Hall on the 2nd floor of the Buell Store building, then the Turner Opera House as already mentioned. When dances were held in the new Heber Amusement Hall a popular orchestra included Andy Anderson, violin; Storm M. McDonald, clarinet; Adolphia R. Duke, trombone; Arthur Olson, cornet; Jay Jensen and Lillian Cummings (Moulton), piano; Seymour Duke, drums, and Walter Burgener, cornet. This orchestra played together many years.

Other dance orchestras were formed from high school groups to provide music for school dances. Many stayed together and provided music for community dances as well. One of the more popular groups in recent times has been the Ellis Clyde Orchestra.

Music in the wards and the stake has always been important, and many Heber groups have won recognition for their music ability. In 1896 a special Heber Sunday School choir was organized under the direction of Joseph A. Murdoch. Choir members who gave much service around the valley included Lottie Moulton, Emma Giles, Tillie Clegg, Minnie Dahlman, Lillie Roberts, Emily Howarth, Mary Giles, Hannah Jeffs, Mary Hicken, Ruth Hicken, Joseph Moulton, John W. Crook, Isabell Baum, Hannah Harbour, Georganna Lindsay, Joseph A. Murdoch, Malinda Hicken, Mary Carlile, Mary Emma McMillan, Annabell Clegg, Lizzie Giles, Gladys McMullin, Harriet McMillan, George Harbour, Mary Howarth, DeVera Smith, Sarah Giles and Jennie Dahlman. Emma Giles Carlile, who was stake organist for many years, accompanied the group.

In 1913 a group of girls from the Heber Second Ward formed a quartette and participated in the musical festivals of the Mutual Improvement Association. They successfully competed in ward and stake competition, and then went on to Salt Lake City where they won all-Church honors for their arrangement and performance of "Annie Laurie." Members of this winning quartette included Gladys McMullin Davis, first soprano; Donna Murdock (Montgomery), second soprano; Helena Roberts Murri, first alto and Maybell McMullin (Moulton), second alto.

The Adeline Chorus was another successful musical group in Heber City. The group actually began as a Wasatch Stake Relief Society Chorus. Some 40 Relief Society members were called in 1936 to form the chorus which was directed by Alberta Hoover, with LaVada Harri-

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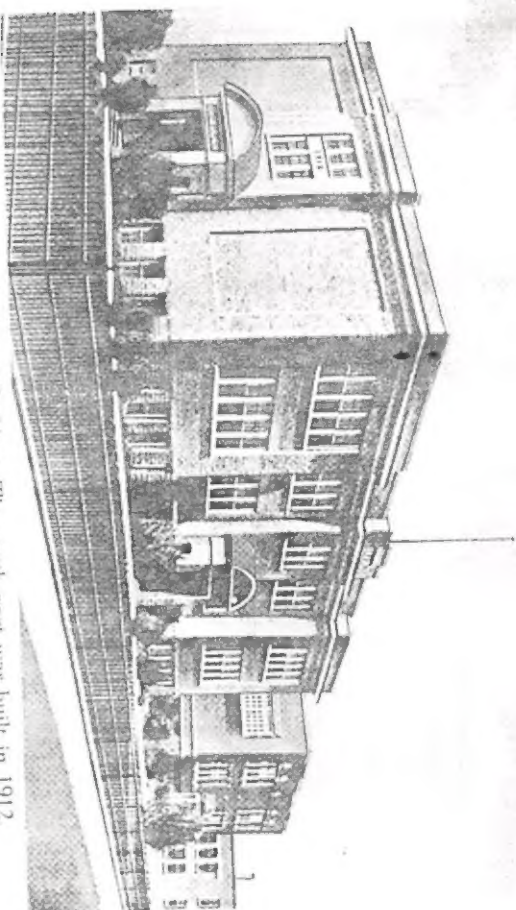
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## HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS



The Wasatch High School Building. The south part was built in 1912.

in the Lions International band contest in Los Angeles and won fourth place in the nation, receiving a \$500 prize. That same year the drill team directed by Lee Kay won first place in its competition. Later the band participated in a national contest at Denver and won first place in the Class B high school competition and fourth place in open class competition.

Under Delmar Dickson, the school's music department participated in many events. There were operas, glee club recital, chorus concerts and the band and orchestra performances. Uniforms for the band were the pride of the school. There were trips, parades, concerts, fairs and broadcasts to keep interest alive in music work. A new steel of the band was made during the Los Angeles Lions Club competition which was shown throughout the country.

Support of the band's trips came through efforts of the Band Mother's Club, which worked to raise money for uniforms and special events. Since 1908 the following teachers have directed the music department: O. A. Whitaker, Arnold Bergener, Clyde Miller, Vernon Johansen, Delmar Dickson, Lloyd Winn and Lorin Allred.

Sports and athletics have been an important part of Wasatch High. In 1944 and 1945 the basketball team captured state championship honors in the Class B tournaments under the coaching of Floyd Slater. The wrestling team won first place in Utah in 1957.

School debating teams were not to be outdone and won first place state honors in 1952, 1953 and 1956.

During the years the high school has grown rapidly. Enrollment in the first class totaled 25 and by 1910 there was a graduating class of

*Arnold Bergener*  
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Lavon Hair, saxophone and guitar; Keith Montgomery, bass fiddle and Don Ryan, Spanish guitar and mandolin.

The piano has been a favorite musical instrument and many have become accomplished pianists. Amy Hancock Clayburn was one Midway resident who played well and taught many others to play. Some of the talented Midway pianists have included Lacy Abplanalp Lundquist, Geneva Wilson, June Boss Tatton, Grace Reese, Ardell Buhler Clyde, Floris Smith, Lacy Burgi Fitzgerald and Barbara Bonner.

Many of Midway's "home town" musicians have attained prominence in the musical world. John Sonderegger became first clarinetist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and held the position for many years. Sylvia Kennah became an outstanding concert violinist, while Vera Epperson Clayton was soloist and a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Amos and Laurence Epperson were active in music at Brigham Young University, and Emery Epperson became musical director of the Jordan School District in Salt Lake City as well as a recognized composer. Henry Van Wagoner was recognized as a versatile banjo artist and entertained throughout the area as "Henry Van the Banjo Man."

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